

# BLANCHE WALSH ON TOLSTOI'S LATEST

Actress Who Plays the Heroine in "Resurrection" Tells Her Views of Maslova and How It Seems to Portray Such a Hideous Character.

The varied and more or less argumentative discussions concerning "Resurrection," the dramatization of Tolstoi's story now running at the Victoria, suggested an inquiry on the part of The Evening World as to Miss Walsh's personal views concerning the central character of Maslova.

Two leading questions were asked her. The first was whether she considered the character of Maslova consistent, logical, probable; whether she believed a woman would be likely to act as Maslova acts, especially in the end. The second was if she would describe her sensations while portraying the drunken, degraded prisoner and how she felt about sacrificing her beauty and the love of the beautiful in such a role. Her reply is characteristic and not without force, and is here appended:

BY BLANCHE WALSH.

The questions you have asked of me I have already put to myself many, many times, not since playing the part, for once portrayed in public the actor is prone to look upon a role much as the painter looks upon his finished canvas—he no longer, I imagine, concerns himself with the ethics of his subject, but only endeavors to perfect the technical execution. When I first read the book I put it down with a feeling of dejection engendered by its appalling truth, the truth which burns in and in, the truth which cannot be forgotten, although it may be ignored; a tendency which has been inherited by perhaps every descendant of our first progenitors.

## JUST AN ORDINARY WOMAN.

Whether or not the delineation of Maslova's character is consistent, logical or probable depends upon our conclusion as to what extent she is human and to what extent theatrical. The latter contingency is rather remote, for things theatrical appeal almost entirely to our superficial emotions. The consensus of opinion regarding Maslova, however—and Maslova is more or less the play—is that she makes one think, a plea in itself for the human contention.

Being human and a woman, a very ordinary woman, whose emotions were physical rather than intellectual, she was largely, if not entirely, the creature of circumstance and association.

The best that was in her was developed by love and the world's kindness. The worst in her was developed not by her own sin, of which she would have repented soon enough, had she not been found out, but by the inexorable modern social law, which, as Maslova says, "will not let a woman of her class change," and which yields no forgiveness.

She becomes hardened and calloused, and compensation comes in the form of liquor, cigarettes and debauchery. Men are her prey, her natural prey, because the man who shared her sin, or rather whose lustful nature caused her fall, committed a crime which brought him no subsequent dishonor—society accompanied him, but not her.

Oh, yes, it is all logical and consistent enough, too terribly logical.

As Tolstoi says, all you do to the woman is to "punish, punish, punish, but there is another way," and he points out that way in supposing an individual like Dimitri, who has a conscience that can be awakened.

## WHY HEROINE ACTS AS SHE DOES.

As to its being probable is quite another thing. I think it is distinctly improbable, for it can be by the merest chance that the libertine meets his victim as Dimitri meets Maslova, and it is not probable that the average man will consider the redemption of that victim any part of his duty.

Improbable as it is, however, it is a hopeful sign in these egoistical materialistic days of ours, that there is at least one man, and he is a great man, who imagines even a possible case.

And why should not a woman act as Maslova acts in the end? The spirit of true sacrifice is surely not a monopoly of the masculine sex. Her love naturally prompts her to accept this man's offer of marriage since it was through her love for him that she fell and also through her love for him that she is redeemed. But she can see his offer is not prompted by love. She realizes he is but carrying a cross, and she has drunk too deeply of the cup of bitterness already to accept his name and wealth, and as it would be to an unrequited affection. To achieve him from any possible sin, she takes away the last excuse he has for following her, by accepting the love and protection of a fellow convict.

Yes, I think a woman would be very likely to act as does Maslova in the end, not every woman, mind you, but a woman whose soul has been racked, incensed, tortured and finally healed. Surely, such a woman would not care to risk opening the old wounds afresh. That which she must yearn for above all is peace.

## GLORY OF RESURRECTION MODIFIED.

My reply to your second query must be more or less obvious. My sensations in portraying the drunken and degraded Maslova of the prison scene do not concern the ethics for the reasons already stated, but as to whether I am painting the portrait aright as originally conceived.

My mind alternately wanders back to the innocent Katusha of the prologue and forward to the denouement when her resurrection takes place. I feel that if the depths of depravity are not sounded her as Tolstoi evidently intended they should be, the glory of her resurrection is to that extent modified.

For those who would carp at this picture of vice when it is so palpably shown as a means to extol virtue, I would have you quote in the largest possible type across the double page of your journal the words of St. Luke:

"JOY SHALL BE IN HEAVEN OVER ONE SINNER THAT REPENTETH, MORE THAN OVER NINETY AND NINE JUST PERSONS WHO NEED NO REPENTANCE."

He or she for whom the play "Resurrection" does not in certain of its phases arouse the most joyous emotion of which we are capable, I fear, to be pitted, I would ask such a one to take the manuscript of the play and read it aloud from first to last.

## WORLD WILL BENEFIT BY LESSON.

If, when Maslova has been finally redeemed through the expiation of a tortured conscience and ennobling love, she utters those words on that beautiful Easter morning in the Siberian desert, "Christ is risen!"—if, I say, there be a woman of intelligence and blest with the most radiant physical charms who would then have any feeling of having sacrificed her beauty, and whether she would not rather consider she was thereby declaring her worship for the beautiful—then I do not know womanhood and I am very ignorant of human motives.

This aside, we are told art is beautiful, and whether my beauty is sacrificed or not depends upon my worthiness to dwell in her temple. Suffice it to say, I implicitly believe that even though "Resurrection" were taken off the boards now, it has already sown a seed which will spread and spread, and a great harvest of good will will be reaped by the generations to come.

# BLANCHE WALSH AS SHE APPEARS IN THE "RESURRECTION."



## OLD FRIENDS DIE TOGETHER.

Companions in Italy, They Were Reunited Here, and Only the Night Before Had Arranged to Live Under the Same Roof.

## FOUND ASPHYXIATED TO-DAY

Two old Italians, friends for many years before either came to this country, were found dead in bed at No. 173 Bleeker street to-day. They had celebrated their reunion last night and the prospect of spending the remainder of their lives in the same house. They were Antonio Salerni, who for a number of years had run a little glove shop in Mulberry street, and Vincenzo Caruso. Each was more than sixty-five years old.

Salerni, his wife and son had lived for a long time at the Bleeker street address. His friend not long ago came from Italy and, as the tenement where Salerni lived was filled, he took rooms in Prince street. They frequently visited each other, renewing the friendship of former years.

Yesterday there was a vacancy in the Bleeker street house and Caruso engaged the four rooms on the floor above his friend. Last night all of the furniture had not been moved and there were no beds put up. A mattress was placed on the floor in the front room, and it was decided that the two old men should sleep there, their wives occupying the bed in the room below.

All went to sleep in high spirits. At 1 o'clock this morning Mrs. Salerni went upstairs to call the men for breakfast. The door was locked and she could get no response. Smelling gas, she screamed for help, and neighbors soon ran into the hall and broke down the door.

The two old men were found on the mattress apparently dead. The room was filled with the fumes of gas. Policemen sent in a call to St. Vincent's Hospital and two ambulances were sent. The doctors worked over the bodies for half an hour, resorting to artificial respiration, but without avail. The newly made widows were frantic with grief and threw themselves across the dead bodies on the mattress.

It was found that the gas had leaked from a jet in the kitchen. There was a patent chain attachment on it. It is thought that the old men did not understand it and pulled the stop cock open after the light had been extinguished.

## TO SELL PEACE PALACE SITE

Representative of Hague Syndicate Coming to Deal with Carnegie.

THE HAGUE, March 4.—A representative of the financial syndicate which controls the estate near here which formerly belonged to the Grand Ducal family of Saxe-Weimar will start shortly for the United States to negotiate with Andrew Carnegie for the sale of the estate, on which the latter proposes to erect a "Peace Palace" in commemoration of the establishment of the international court of arbitration.

## Pulley Block Cut His Leg Off.

Walter Abbott, a resident of Hollywood, Va., had his leg amputated by a pulley block while at work on the new East River Bridge. He was removed to Gouverneur Hospital.

## STABBED BY HAT PIN IN THEATRE.

Absent-Minded Young Woman Jabs Man in Seat Before Her While Pinning Headgear to Back of Chair.

During the second act of "If I Were King" at the Garden Theatre last night a man seated in the orchestra suddenly leaped to his feet with a half-suppressed "Ouch! ouch!" and turning, suspiciously eyed a handsomely gown woman in the chair behind him. Then he made a bolt for the lobby and told an usher he had been stabbed on the shoulder by the woman. The usher asked her into Manager Kennedy's private office. She was white and excited.

The man had taken off his coat and found blood.

"You stabbed me, you did, and I'll have you sent to jail," he said. "Get a doctor, I'm apt to die."

"It was only my hatpin," wailed the woman. "I was pushing it into the back of the seat and it slipped."

"It went into me most a yard," responded the man. But he looked reassured. "I thought it was a knife," he said. "You are very careless, but I'll forgive you."

The woman, who said she was Mrs. Mary, wife of a wine agent, went back to her seat. The man said he was going to leave, a further assurance.

## STRANDED STEAMER AFLOAT

Merion, Which Went Ashore Near Queenstown, Not Badly Damaged.

QUEENSTOWN, March 4.—The Dominion line steamer Merion, from Boston for Liverpool, which grounded after leaving this port Sunday near Rock Point, was towed off the rocks into deep water to-day and subsequently anchored in the inner harbor.

The Merion will proceed to Liverpool, accompanied by a tug. Although her bottom somewhat damaged and the injuries the steamer sustained are not sufficient to prevent her proceeding to her destination.

## Secret of English Ladies' Complexion

Year in and year out English families keep Beecham's Pills on hand for minor ailments, which are consequently checked in time to prevent severe illness. Women have peculiar weaknesses and ailments, and English women find Beecham's Pills combat and correct their troubles as nothing else will do. The secret is that Beecham's Pills keep their entire system in perfect working order and give nature the slight help needed.

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# THINK THEY HAVE "LONE BURGLAR"

Police Capture One Oscar Miller While He Was Pawning a Piece of Silverware Stolen from Clergyman's House.

The police believe that in arresting Oscar Miller they have captured the "champion lone burglar." Miller has confessed to having been responsible for more than twenty-five burglaries that have taken place in Harlem recently.

Miller had a fad. He would always steal a coat. No matter how much silverware or other household articles were lugged away, there was always a coat. The peculiarity of this struck the detectives as being the trail which would lead to the capture of the burglar. They visited fifteen pawnshops and found that a coat had been pawned in each place by "Oscar Miller."

The pawnbrokers were instructed to immediately notify Headquarters when Miller called again. Miller soon afterward entered a pawnshop at One Hundred and Eighth street and Third avenue to pawn a piece of silver belonging to the Rev. Dr. Chamberlain, whose place was valued at \$1,000 worth of goods last Friday night.

Detectives Deever and McCauley were called and they caught Miller just as he was coming out of the shop. The police say that Miller always worked alone. All his burglaries were committed in the same way, by forcing a front window with a jimmy.

When Miller was brought before Capt. Langan he confessed, but when pressed for a history of his life all he would say was that like Harry Tracy, the outlaw he "worked alone and had no pals." Miller is said to have shot a man on the Bowery last week.

the mouth at the East River to the Blisville Bridge, more than a mile up the stream. The flow has been cut off and Standard Oil Company workmen are repairing the break.

No information concerning the trouble is obtainable from the officials of the oil company, those at the station having as usual received orders to tell nothing to the newspapers. It is practically certain, however, that one of the big mains that carried crude oil from Pittsburgh burst.

The entire surface of the creek is covered and precautions are being taken to avert a fire. As soon as the fog lifts sufficiently men in boats will take up the oil with wooden blankets.

The last break in a main was seventeen years ago. The creek caught fire at that time and destroyed the bridge at Calvary.

## OIL FLOOD IN NEWTOWN CREEK

Standard Company's Big Main Bursts and a Torrent of Crude Petroleum Pours Out Toward East River.

## GREAT DANGER OF FIRE.

The bursting of an oil main of the Standard Oil Company under Newtown Creek covered the surface of the stream with a coating of crude oil to-day from

# Announcement \$5.00 Extraordinary Sale.

The Great Newspapers base their claims as to advertising scope on their circulation. We feel that the distribution of such extraordinary values as the garments at "Five Dollars" will bring better results to us than \$15,000.00 worth of advertising, as each purchaser's good will is certainly equal to \$25.00 worth of any advertising.

Hence—To-Morrow's Event Is of Mutual Benefit.

The THE BIG STORE ACTIVITY IN ITSELF 18th Men's SIEGEL COOPER & CO. Street. SIXTH AVE. FIFTH AVE. 18th ST. East.

Thursday morning, March 5th, a total of about 600 Garments of all styles, weights and qualities, representing broken sizes, non-duplicates, closed numbers and models of

Men's—{Suits, Overcoats, Ulsters}—Youths.

will be ready for your selection at "Five Dollars" each. Usually the small men get the best selection at Special Sales. In this instance sizes for "Big Men" are strongly represented as well. EARLY COMERS NATURALLY WILL HAVE THE BEST

Choice at Five Dollars. To-Morrow

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Many of the latest designs in pendants, chateaine pins and scarf pins, set with diamonds or diamonds and pearls can be found in our stock, notable for its profuse assortment of moderate priced diamond jewelry.

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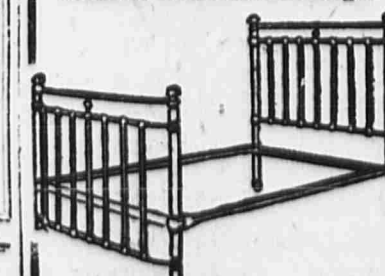
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## FIRE!

VIAU'S Corset Fire Sale still going on. 4,500 pairs Corsets to be sold at 25c., 50c., and \$1.00. Our \$5.00 Abdominal Corsets, slightly worn, \$1.50. B. VIAU, 67 West 23d St., N. Y.

# Young America, What Ails You?

The man who lives an out-of-door life, who earns his living by his brawn and muscle, is a being who can defy bad weather and wet feet. He is quickening his heart, driving the blood through unused channels, hastening the breathing and increasing the secretions of the skin. He may be able to abuse his stomach, drink or smoke to excess and yet be healthy. His red corpuscles will still keep their round shape. But the person who does not live so close to nature, who works confined in office, shop, or ill-ventilated house, or is risking his life in commercial habits that are ruinous to the stomach and heart, such as lunches consumed at racing speed, overwork and late hours, will have fewer red blood corpuscles and an increase of white corpuscles. The red corpuscles instead of being round will form into all kinds of various shapes, as shown in border of this article. The stomach, heart, and nervous system of Americans is being sorely overtaxed. Our young people are over-educated and over-strained in school houses and homes, and this is bringing a growing evil to Young America. Sleep is often broken; the ill-used brain will not permit one to enjoy "Nature's sweet restorer"—sleep in bed.

The blood is slow, sluggish and filled with white corpuscles. Stagnation of the blood causes headache, constipation, bad colds, coughs and a pale countenance.

RICH RED BLOOD is gained by taking a medicine which is close to nature's way of making up for the abuse of the body, such as stated above. Dr. R. V. Pierce for many years studied this serious question while in the active practice of his profession and finally made a prescription of botanical extracts which had a wonderful effect in increasing the red blood corpuscles. He placed it on the market under the name of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

To gain in fat is nearly always to gain in blood, but to fatten a person does not depend merely on the food eaten; something more is wanted in the way of a digestive and tonic to enable the system to prepare and appropriate the food taken in. That is what the "Golden Medical Discovery" does. The blood-making glands are assisted in their work, the poisons driven out of the body, the liver made active; that force-pump of the body—the heart, is stimulated to healthy action, and every nerve of the body is fed on rich red blood—blood with an

abundance of red corpuscles. Languid, tired feelings, nervousness and irritability, lack of appetite and sleep, vanish quickly after using this nourishing tonic and blood purifier. Muscle and sound healthy flesh is put on at an astonishing rate if Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is taken, together with mild physical exercise.

## \$3,000 FORFEIT!

Will be cheerfully paid by the World's Dispensary Medical Association, proprietors of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, if they cannot show the original signature of the individuals volunteering the testimonials published below.

"Last summer during a severe hot spell," writes John Goetz, Senior Beadle, Foreresters of America, Kodak 326, Corporal of 6th (regular) Artillery, Heavy Battery B, First Separate Company, National Guard of N. Y., "I became completely prostrated, unable to eat or sleep, with severe pains in groins and back, also blinding headaches. The doctors prescribed for me, but I did not seem to gain any strength, so decided to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, as I had heard it so highly spoken of. Am pleased to state that a complete change for the better set in almost as soon as I began using this medicine, and, within three weeks, I was fully restored to health and had gained eleven pounds in weight. I feel it a duty to write and tell you this."

"Please accept my thanks for your wonderful medicine, 'Golden Medical Discovery,' which has brought me from the bed to a healthy man again," writes G. W. Briscoe, of Abilene, Kans. "When I began taking your medicine I was run down in health and flesh, had no appetite, had heavy pain in abdomen, headache, backache, dizziness, shortness of breath, also eyes were weak, could not do any work. After I got Dr. Pierce's Medical Adviser I told me just what was the matter and what I should take to gain health. My cure has remained permanent. After using five bottles of 'Golden Medical Discovery,' I am now able to do a good day's work and do it with ease. The relief was something that I could not describe. It has enabled me to do my work steadily ever since."

DO YOU KNOW YOUR OWN SYSTEM? A complete medical book and physiology of the body, is Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, which can be had for the cost of postage, 31 one-cent stamps for the cloth-bound book, or 21 stamps for the paper-bound volume of 1008 pages. Address: Dr. R. V. PIERCE, Buffalo, N. Y.

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